

Criminal Justice Commission
Court System Task Force
Minutes

Tuesday, September 14th, 2010 – 12:00 Noon
McEaddy 12th Floor Conference Room
301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Task Force Members present:

Jack Goldberger, Chairman
Judge August Bonavita, County Criminal Court
Judge Jeff Colbath, Circuit Criminal Court
Capt. Ed Jablonski, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Wanda Joiner, PRIDE Integrated Services
Elizabeth Parker, State Attorney's Office
John Riviera, Public Defender's Office
Yasmin Rivera, Dept. of Corrections
Nicole Saunders, Justice Services
Terri Skiles, State Attorney's Office
Louis Tomeo, Clerk and Comptroller's Office

Task Force Members absent:

Cherry Grant, Public Defender's Office
Feirmon Johnson, Department of Juvenile Justice
Capt. Alan Ortman, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Gena Rowlands, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Chief Clay Walker, Manalapan Police Department
Michelle Spangenberg, Court Administration

Staff present:

Journey Beard, Criminal Justice Commission
Becky Walker, Criminal Justice Commission

1. Welcome

Chair Jack Goldberger called the meeting to order, and welcomed members and guests.

2. Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Attendees introduced themselves in lieu of roll call.

3. Approval and/or Additions to the Draft Agenda

The draft meeting Agenda was approved without amendments.

4. Approval Draft Minutes

The minutes for the May 5th, 2010, meeting was approved.

5. Chairman's Comments

- A. **Ideas for Next Fiscal Year:** Chairman invited members of the task force to think of new projects and ideas for the new fiscal year. Judge Colbath suggested two ideas for staff to investigate 1) placing and

ATM at the booking facility and 2) providing legal counsel with the ability to "Skype" into the jail to speak with their clients. This would save the jail time and money related to managing inmates and visitors and may be used as a revenue generating stream for the county.

6. New Business

- A. **Community Court Evaluation Preliminary Findings:** Damir Kukec, Research and Planning Manager, Criminal Justice Commission, presented the preliminary findings of the evaluation of the Community Justice Service Center (the complete presentation is attached for information). The presentation included a history of the program and basic statistics on individuals and case load for the Community Court since its inception. Some of the highlights of the evaluation found that the lack of the full time coordinator (and manager) at the Tamarind court has had a negative impact on the operations and sustainability of the Community Court. While the Community Court provides services to both court clients as well as to the members of the community, the lack of a full case management system for both populations precludes a more robust analysis of the impact that the Center has on its clients. Furthermore, the reliance on paper records means that extensive data entry is required to complete such an analyses and comparison with a control group – there is a lack of basic information on clients such as sex, race, outcomes related to treatment. Using court data, maintained by the Clerk and Comptroller's Office was used to report on recidivism rates between Community Court clients and those heard at Division KK2 (Gun Club Arraignment) for those receiving notices to appear. While the comparison requires some further refinement, the evaluation found that the recidivism rate was higher among Community Court Clients when compared to Division KK2 (excluding traffic offenses). The evaluation found that the role of the Citizen's Advisory Board and the Court Systems Task Force was also unclear; and that the imminent closing of the Community Court at the end of September 2010 was in stark contrast to the establishment of other specialty courts in the county (delinquent drug court, family drug court, mental health court, veteran's court, etc.).

7. Old Business:

- A. **Procedures for Return of Firearms:** This issue was raised by Court Administration, noting that the Chief Judge was ready to sign the Administrative Order. Task Force members suggested that more work is need on the AO and asked that Court Administration re-examine the text and bring it back for discussion before December 2010.

8. Updates & Initiatives

- A. **Adult Drug Court:** Nicole Saunders, Justice Services, provided brief report on the activities of Adult Drug Court. She also noted that the SAAP will be closing down due to the loss of funding as of September 30, 2010 and there operations continue to wind-down.
- B. **BANNER / SHOWCASE & Electronic Access to Probable Cause Affidavit Images:** Louis Tomeo, Clerk & Comptroller's Office, explained that data is being converted from BANNER to the SHOWCASE system. It is scheduled to be rolled out in October, 2010. Additionally, Damir Kukec was asked to investigate the FL Supreme Court Order that addresses obtaining electronic access to Probable Cause Affidavit images and identifying the obstacle that is present concerning this issue.

- C. **Delinquency Drug Court:** Cristy Altaro, Court Administration, introduced members to the new Juvenile Court Case Manager, Will Hutchings. They currently have 17 additional participants. Cristy stated they are continuing to examine expanding their eligibility criteria.
- D. **Community Service Justice Center:** Becky Walker, CJC, commented that funding for the Center has not been renewed and the City of West Palm Beach officials are being approached to pick up future funding. She also noted that she and Michael Rodriguez continue to work in find alternative funding and arrangements to keep the Center open after September 30, 2010.
- E. **Member and Guest Comments**

Damir Kukec wanted to thank Journey Beard for her energy and contribution to the Court Systems Task Force. She has moved on to bigger and better things, and is now the Director in Housing and Community Development. He also informed members that Mr. Lenny Berger from the County Attorney's Office would be here next meeting to talk about the Sunshine Legislation.

- F. **Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held on October 12th, 2010.